



Kingdom Building Plan

From dependence 2011 to interdependence in 2016, a period of transformational growth

WHY?

The question that needs to be answered is do we want to be independent? We all want to be needed. If we are independent, that is saying we don't need others. But, there may be a higher level of relationship that we could consider. And that is interdependence. We are all stronger if we are together. Is everyone's focus on growing the church, building His Kingdom?

For the past 40 years, the Presbyterian church of Belize has grown tremendously. From the time Don Manuel shared Christ, to the Lacey's coming to Belize, thru the planting of the Belize Presbytery, thru the planting of 16 churches and missions, and now 9 schools, and a medical clinic, and a seminary, God has been working a great work. Thousands have benefitted, thousands have come to know and believe in Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Church has found some footing; a foundation has been built.

Often, little is known of Belize. We didn't study it in school because it did not exist 30 years ago. We do remember it as British Honduras. One of the reasons it is significant and strategic is because it is English speaking; and it is the southernmost English speaking country in the Western Hemisphere. Belize is a launching pad for reformed theology. And it is a place where Americans can go safely, and serve; but the Belizeans can go from their own country to the entire Spanish-speaking world.

Now we move forward to the maturing stage of the church. Even with all the good, some weaknesses appear. So, we can all go our separate ways, and hope it all turns out ok, or we can come together as the Church, and unite around a step-by-step plan to go thru independence, and arrive at interdependence.

The **Kingdom Building Plan** can be our blueprint to use in planning for and dealing with the challenges we face. Is it time to take a breath, assess where we are, and find out what the needs may be. God has blessed the Belizean church. It has grown. And maybe it has gotten out of balance, or grown beyond our abilities and resources. Maybe we need to relook and share, open some doors, ask lots of questions, share help. What if we committed to walk alongside the Belizeans for 5 years to help guide them along their path? ***What if each Belizean church / mission / organization had a church stateside to be their partner?***

WHAT?

Goals for each partner church:

1. Provide financial support for pastors if needed so they can survive and thrive and grow their churches to the point their church can totally support them.
2. Provide support for potential pastors so they can get the education they need.
3. Strengthen the seminary so it can train people in spreading God's Word
4. Provide teachers for seminars in the churches about church leadership
5. Shore up the schools so they can train our future
6. Build relationships across churches
7. Help each church to become sustainable
8. Send pastors to preach to give the local pastor time off

HOW?

GOAL 1: *Provide financial support for pastors if needed so they can survive and thrive and grow their churches to the point their church can totally support them.*

This plan was originally called the “54321 Plan.” The numbers 54321 actually refer to financial support that *could* be provided for each Belizean pastor for 5 years.

An example:

Year one, a pastor would receive \$1000 BZD (BZD are about two times the American dollar) monthly.

Year two, \$800 BZD, and this decreases over 5 years.

($\$1,000+800+600+400+200 = \$3,000 \times 12 \text{ months} = \$36,000 \text{ BZD per pastor}$)

This funding would cover the pastors. Additional funding would be sought for additional pieces of the plan. The funding should go thru the Presbytery so everyone knows that the funds are wisely spent. We could have an unlimited number of partners.

The Belizean churches are challenged to make up the difference in the pastor’s pay and to increase their portion each year. The church and pastor would agree to some preset benchmarks which everyone agrees to. If the benchmark is met, then the second year goes forward.

Ideas for benchmarks

The teaching of stewardship

Discipleship training

Evangelism training

A new ministry

Support of the schools and seminary

Host a guest team

Membership growth (i.e.1 family the 1st year, 2 families the 2nd, 3 the 3rd, etc.)

GOAL 3: *Strengthen the seminary so it can train people in spreading God’s Word*

The seminary could set a goal of graduating 16 pastors over the next five years. The partner churches in the states could commit to sending down a teaching elder once a year to teach a module for the seminary. The first year, seminars on topics could be done as a marketing tool to increase the potential pool of candidates for the seminary.

GOAL 5: *Shore up the schools so they can train our future*

To serve the families of the covenant children

To serve the communities by teaching a Christian World Life view

To have a standard of excellence

To care for all the covenant children, regardless of abilities or circumstances

Each school would develop a 5-year plan in these areas:

- Teacher development
- Construction
- Student performance
- Funding

The Kingdom Building Plan (54321 Plan) Fund

The purpose of this fund is to support the development of the Presbyterian Church in Belize so that it can go from being dependent on funds from abroad, to being independent of needing outside funding.

Objectives:

1. Help each church pay for a pastor
2. Help each mission church to grow and become particularized and get a pastor
3. Help the Belizean Seminary to produce these pastors
4. Help the Belize Presbyterian school system be excellent
5. Help the Belizean Presbytery plant churches throughout Belize and Central America
6. To help ministries of these churches

We ask churches from abroad to make monthly contributions to the fund and use these funds in an organized, prioritized way. There are priorities and these are done in order. Commitments from the fund are only made as funds are available.

Each church asking for funds must present a plan of how they will transition over a five year time frame. This allows the church to plan and to take steps for growth. Questions to be answered in the request are:

What growth is expected?

How many members are in the church or mission? And this needs to be broken down as to head of house being a member.

How many family units currently tithe?

What are the expected measurable outcomes if the 54321 Fund provides funding?

Who will make decisions for the church?

What will we measure?

Make Biblical Financial (like Crown Financial) training a module the first year as a requirement.

Right now priorities are:

1. PDS teachers (we are developing a PDS 54321 plan too)
2. Cristo Rey pastor support